

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite has been rendered moot by the cancellation of this claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections – Informalities

The objection to claims 17 and 21 for containing informalities has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of these grounds of objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejection of claims 6-10, 18-23, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roberts* (U.S. Patent No. 5,233,892) in view of *Koeppen* (U.S. Patent No. 754,321), the rejection of claims 1-3 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roberts* in view of *Lindquist* (U.S. Patent No. 1,593,979), the rejection of claims 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roberts* in view of *JP 3-281111*, and the rejection of claims 11-12, 14-15, 24-25, and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roberts* in view of *Koeppen* and further in view of *JP 3-281111* have been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 37-39 is noted with appreciation.

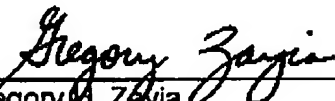
Dependent claims 13, 26, 29-30, and 32-36, which were identified in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter, have been replaced with new claims 40-48, respectively, which incorporate all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims upon which canceled original claims 13, 26, 29-30, and 32-36 depended. Thus, new claims 40-48 are allowable as written.

Conclusion

In view of the Amendment and Remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is in condition for allowance. Early notification to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the above Amendment and Remarks do not put the claims in condition to be allowed, and that a discussion would be helpful, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned agent directly at (312)-321-4257.

Respectfully submitted,



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